

January 2005

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your interest and involvement in planning for York Substation as a new Seattle Park. We have completed planning and expect to begin construction of on the park in the spring of 2005! Keep posted on what is happening at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/york.htm>

Background The North Rainier Hub Urban Village Neighborhood Plan requested the City “purchase York substation for community open space and develop it into a pocket park.” The 11,625 square-foot site at 3650 Renton Avenue S. was transferred from City Light to Parks in August 2003 and \$109,070 of Pro Parks Levy development funds were allocated for park development. During 2004 the community York Park Task Force was successful in raising an additional \$52,000 from Safeco, the Miller Foundation, the Department of Neighborhoods, the Seattle Foundation and King County to supplement Levy funding. As a result, a more fully developed park can be constructed in 2005. This project will help build a stronger community and healthy families, one of Mayor Greg Nickels’ highest priorities for Seattle.

Design The in-house design by Parks landscape architectural staff features an asphalt loop path that directs park visitors along a variety of colorful, seasonal, low-maintenance plantings that are attractive to people and urban wildlife. An existing multi-branched cedar tree is preserved and showcased. Minimal furnishings, including granite boulders and standard Parks benches will allow easy maintenance and a wide variety of park uses. The sidewalk and parking strip fronting this tiny park may be reclaimed from parked cars.

Public Involvement Process Two community meetings were held in December 2003 and January 2004 to generate plans, budgets, and community enthusiasm for fundraising efforts in 2004. Parks staff met quarterly with the York Park Task Force as they raised development funding for this project. A final community meeting in November 2004 reviewed site design details and celebrated a successful fundraising effort. The Board of Park Commissioners was briefed on the project on January 13, 2005. Approximately 25 community members participated in planning meetings for York Substation and Parks staff received many contacts by email, mail and phone during the planning process.

Naming the Park Please submit possible names for this new park by the end of February 2005 to the Park Naming Committee (c/o Paula Hoff 100 Dexter Ave N. Seattle 98109 paula.hoff@seattle.gov).

The Goat and other events Some of the money raised by the York Park Task Force will be used for educational programs and special events. One unique event is a scheduled goat clearing of invasive shrubs. A goat wrangler will control a goat as it forages in early spring on invasive emerging shrubs. Planned events include a goat parade and school visits. The community is also busy identifying school and community groups to help with site planting.

What’s happening next? Construction starts in late spring and will be completed by the end of 2005.

Contact information Cathy Tuttle worked with the community to develop the plan for York Substation, Karen Galt is the Parks Landscape Architect who will manage the construction of the new park, and Cheryl Fraser is responsible for the staff that will maintain the park after it is built. Louise Hotaling is the neighborhood community contact.

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YORK SUBSTATION PARK DEVELOPMENT - ENTRY SKETCH